दो भाईयों की तरह जो मसला हल हो रहा था उसम गड़बड़ पैदा की है।

मैं अपने आपको सरदार साहब से एसोसिएट करता हूं।

Economic blockage of National Highways No. 39 and 53

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH (Manipur): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for allowing me to raise a special issue for saving the lives of the people of Manipur.

Sir, Manipur is a land-locked State. There is no water-way or railway to reach the State. The National Highways are the only life-line for the State of Manipur. There are two National Highways. One, the National Highway No. 39, passes through Nagaland. Another, the National Highway No. 53, passes through Assam, Silchar. Nowadays the National Highway No. 53 is not in a proper condition to be utilised. The National Highway No. 39 is the only life-line for the State of Manipur now.

The present position is that this National Highway has been blocked by launching an economic blockage by two Naga organisations, the Naga National Council and the Naga Students Union, who are opposing the creation of a separate Sadar Hill (Kangpokpi) District in Manipur. This blockage is continuing from the 21st of May, 1998.

The creation of the Sadar Hill (Kangpokpi) District is the common demand of all the regional and national level parties in the State. The Creation of the separate Sadar Hill (Kangpokpi) District has been included in the election manifestos of all the parties.

The present Government has decided to create this district. On hearing that the Naga organisation, the Naga National Council and the Naga Students Union proposed the economic blockage of the National Highway. The present Chief Minister called a meeting of all the parties to discuss about the creation of the Sadar Hill (Kangpokpi) District. All the parties took a decision to request the Naga organisations to withdraw the blockage, but the Naga organisations have refuesed it.

Now, the present position is that all the trucks carrying essential commodities and oil tankers have been damaged on the way when they are coming to approached the capital of Manipur, Imphal. The truck owners resolved not to ply on this road without Security. Because of this the people of Manipur are now not able to receive essential commodities. In order to save them from this state of affairs, I would request the hon. Home Minister to take immediate measures so that the essential commodities safely reach Manipur.

Another appeal to the Central Government is that the Government of India should recruit National Highway Security Force so that they can be utilised for protection of National Highways where there is absence of railways in the border state like Manipur.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): We have nine more speakers. We will permit two minutes to each speaker. Just make suggestions, so that the Minister can reply to you. We have already debated enough on it. Shri Raghavji.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Alarming Deterioration in Power and Water Supply Situation in the Country Contd.—

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, समय के अभाव के कारण मैं अपनी बात को केवल पेयजल की समस्या तक सीमित रखूंगा। मान्यवर, यह सर्वविदित है कि प्राणी की जीवन रक्षा के लिए वायु और जल नितांत आवश्यक है। वैसे इस पृथ्वी पर जल की कमी नहीं है और पृथ्वी का दो-तिहाई से ज्यादा हिस्सा जल से आच्छादित है, किंतु दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि इस में समुद्र का खारा पानी 97.4 परसेंट है, बर्फीले स्थान पर 1.8 परसेंट और पीने योग्य पानी सिर्फ 0.8 परसेंट है और इसी कारण यह समस्या उत्पन्न होती है।

मान्यवर, देश को आजाद हुए 50 वर्ष को गए हैं, लेकिन स्थिति यह है कि 31.12.97 को यह अनुमानित

3001/25-F/13

किया गया था कि हिंदुस्तान में कुल 14,30,663 बस्तियां हैं जिन में 49,374 ऐसी हैं जहां कि पानी लाने के लिए बहुत दूर तक यानी 1.6 किलोमीटर से भी ज्यादा दूर तक चलना पड़ता है क्योंकि उस स्थान के आसपास पानी नहीं है। इस के अलावा 3,54,305 बस्तियां ऐसी हैं जिन में पर्याप्त पानी नहीं है। मान्यवर, एक व्यक्ति को प्रति दिन 40 लीटर पानी चाहिए लेकिन उतना पानी उपलब्ध नहीं होता है। इसीलिए वर्ल्ड बैंक के वाइस-प्रेसीडेंट श्री इस्माईल सेरागोल्डीन ने ठीक ही कहा है कि:

> "Wars of next century will not be over oil or politics, but over water."

मान्यवर, आज देश की यह स्थिति हो गयी है। इसी संबंध में 1992 में डबलिन में इंटरनेशनल कांफरेंस ऑन वाटर मैनेजमेंट हुई थी जिस में चेतावनी दी गयी थी कि:

"Scarcity and misuse of fresh water poses a serious and growing threat to sustainable development and protection of the environment.

अब यह अनुमानित किया जा रहा है कि हिंदुस्तान में 2030 में पानी का बड़ा भयंकर संकट आएगा और यह संकट इसलिए भी दिन-प्रतिदिन बढ़ता जा रहा है क्योंकि 1991 में जहां प्रति व्यक्ति 2213 क्यूबिक मीटर पानी मिलता था वह 1996 में 2000 क्यूबिक मीटर रह गया है और आगे आने वाले वर्षों में और भी घटेगा। इसका कारण यह है कि जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है, कृषि में पानी का ज्यादा उपयोग हो रहा है और उद्योग-धंधे बढ़ रहे हैं। इससे भी पानी अधिक लगता है और इस कारण से ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हिन्दुस्तान में कई कसबे ऐसे हैं, जिनकी जनसंख्या 20,000 से भी कम है, लेकिन वहां पर भी पीने का पर्याप्त पानी उपलब्ध नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में पानी की समस्या पर विचार करने की आवश्यकता है। सेंटर फोर साइंस एंड एनवायरमेंट ने अपने सर्वे में यह लिखा है कि एक ग्रामीण महिला को एक वर्ष में अपने लिए पानी लाने के लिए और जलाऊ लकड़ी को इकट्ठा करने के लिए प्रतिवर्ष 1400 किलोमीटर चलना पड़ता है। ऐसी स्थिति हिन्दुस्तान में है। यह जो ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न हो रही है, इसको ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं केवल तीन-चार सुझाव देकर अपनी बात खतम करूंगा। आप बार-बार घंटी चूंकि बजा रहे हैं, मैं ज्यादा टाइम नहीं लूंगा और अगली बार आपको घंटी न बजानी पड़े, ऐसा मैं चाहूंगा। पहला मेरा सुझाव यह है कि हमारा जल प्रबंध ठीक होना चाहिए। अगर पानी में मितव्ययिता नहीं होगी तो पानी, जो सीमित मात्रा में है, उसको अधिक लोगों के लिए कैसे उपयोग में लिया जाएगा? इसके लिए जल प्रबंध की बढ़िया व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। दूसरा सुझाव मेरा यह है कि पानी का सतह आज काफी नीचे उतरता जा रहा है, इसलिए इसके रीचार्ज की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और रीचार्ज की व्यवस्था के लिए फिर से पुरानी पद्धति को हमें अपनाना होगा, तालाबों को फिर से जीवित करना होगा। जिन तालाबों का अतिक्रमण हो गया है, उन अतिक्रमणों को हटाकर फिर से तालाब व्यवस्थित करके उनमें पानी पहुंच जाए, इसकी व्यवस्था करनी होगी। तीसरा मेरा सुझाव यह है, आज पीने के पानी में प्रदूषण कुछ कारखाने कर रहे हैं। यह एक बड़ी समस्या हो गई है। खासतौर से जो शराब के कारखाने हैं, वे सारे नदियों के किनारे हैं और वे भारी प्रदूषण पीने के पानी में करते हैं। एक-एक कारखाना जो है सौ-सौ किलोमीटर तक नदी को खराब करता है और पानी को दूषित करता है। इसलिए ऐसे कारखाने को प्रतिबंधित करना चाहिए कि वे नदी के किनारे पर न हो।

महोदय, एक और सुझाव देकर मैं अपनी बात खतम कर रहा हूं और वह यह कि शासन-निधि में से जो हम सांसदों को खर्च करने के लिए अभी एक करोड़ रुपया मिल रहा है और आगे दो करोड़ मिलने वाला है, अगर हम अपने यहां की जल व्यवस्था के लिए उसमें से पैसा खर्च करते हैं तो आधा पैसा हमको वापस मिलना चाहिए अन्य स्कीमों के लिए। मैं समझता हूं कि इससे भी बहुत कुछ इस समस्या का हल हो सकेगा।

महोदय, कहने को तो अधिक था, लेकिन समय की मर्यादा के कारण और नहीं कह पा रहा हूं। इन शब्दों के साथ आपने जो समय मुझे दिया है, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani. Please take two minutes.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, I will be very brief. I will only put forth a few suggestions regarding this very serious problem that we are discussing now. It is quite a pity and it is quite regrettable that a country like India which has enough resources is facing a very serious problem regarding scarcity of power and water. We are

facing even drinking water problem in the villages. My suggestion to the hon. Minister and to the Government is that the Government should do something urgent to make every Panchayat self-sufficient and self-reliant by providing enough facilities in the case of production of energy and also making drinking water available.

Sir, for years we have been talking about this energy theft. It is quite unfortunate that the hon. Minister is engaged in a discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES): I think the Minister has come very close to you so that he can listen to you. Mr. Kumarmangalam, the Member is requesting your attention.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Thank you. Regarding this energy theft we have been facing this problem for many years, but till now we could not find a solution to it. I would request the Government that something should be done urgently to make the situation better.

Another thing is, we have to utilise nature and natural resources to face this problem. For example, the production of solar energy is very important. But unfortunately much has not been done in this field. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government propose to take to exploit solar energy.

Another thing is we have enough rivers, but we have not utilised them fully. Then, pollution is there. The anti-pollution measures should be strengthened. Necessary steps should be taken for purification of river water. India has enough water resources. When I speak of this, I am reminded of a poet who said:

> "इक समुन्दर ने आवाज़ दी कि मुझको पानी पिला दीजिए"

That is the case of India. We have enough water and we have enough resources. But even after having all these things, we are complaining. Why? It is because of the wrong policy pursued by us. Secondly, I would like to know as to what the policy of the Government towards borewell is. I don't oppose this scheme. The borewell scheme is the only solution, especially in villages to make drinking water available. But it has been said by the scientists that digging of borewell is weakening the groundwater resources. What is the stand of the Government in this regard? Sir, the developed nations, particularly the modern nations, are making an attempt to purify sea water. I think, our Government will also be compelled in future to think in this direction so that sea water is purified and thus drinking water is made available. In many countries, especially, in the Gulf countries, this thing is being done and drinking water is being made available. We can also think of accepting this model. With these suggestions, I conclude.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I would not like to repeat what has been said so far. I think my notice was for power and water crisis in Delhi. We are going to discuss about the national issue when the Regulatory Commission Bill comes before this House. My point is that this is an issue relating to power shortage in Delhi itself which should make the Government and all of us rethink. Why should there be rethinking? We are speaking about the Regulatory Commission Bill and all that. The reason are well known. Why is there a power crisis in Delhi? Firstly, there is theft, secondly there is a gap in demand and supply and thirdly, the Board is inefficient. The symptoms were all known. It is not that all of a sudden, this problem has cropped up. These were the reasons before this crisis became so acute. Whatever reasons are being given today, they were well within the knowledge of everybody. It has not happened all of a sudden. I have got the paper cuttings with me. The hon. Minister is a very knowledgeable person. He has quoted certain news-items. He has gone all the way to say on 26th March, 1998

that "the capital summer woes may end." It has been stated in a news-item in "The Statesman" that uninterrupted power supply would be ensured during summer. In a news-item in the "National Herald" it has been reported that continuous power for the city would be assured. These assurances were given after discussions. You know the problem and you have diagnosed it. Then you find that it did not click. What does this mean? It means that there is some problem. I was just telling the Minister outside that the old man in a hurry, is a problem. But the young man in a hurry will be a bigger problem for the power sector. I don't want to score a debating point over him. I know he is an advocate. Professionally, Dr. Alagh is there to deal with him. This is an issue which requires rethinking. You can't diagnose this problem within two minutes and you can't find a solution to this problem within two minutes. It is not something like that. It requires time. So far as the problem of power and water in Delhi is concerned, someone has to be made accountable for this problem. In spite of knowing all these things, why has this problem not been attended to? There is a power theft to the extent of 47 per cent. The DVB is useless. Why did this happen? What was the contingency plan? What was the short term plan? What is the long term plan? You cannot mix up all these things. A suggestion was made by some hon. Member that within a month, the problem of theft would be over. I cannot agree with him on this point. It requires deep thinking. If this deep thinking had come you would not have moved the Regulatory Commission Bill, which you propose to move after some time. The Delhi example should make him think again. Please sit together, discuss the matter with the professionals throughout the country, discuss it with all sorts of people, diagnose the problem correctly, then have a short term prescription and a long term prescription. Otherwise, you will have to come to Parliament and say, as you said yesterday: "Okay. This is not the problem which has arisen today. It will take some time." Please rethink about it. The power crisis in Delhi is a lesson for the whole country. I would request the Minister to rethink over this issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Mukherjee, thank you very much for being very brief.

SHRI BRAHMKUMAR BHATT (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would also like to confine myself only to the problem of Delhi power crisis because if I go to the general power scenario in the country, it will take a long time. But before I go to the Delhi power crisis, I would point out to the hon. Power Minister one thing. The requirement of power in the Ninth Five Year Plan is already published and circulated by two authorities. One is the Central Electricity Authority .....*(interruptions)*..... The hon. Power Minister may just listen to this. Your Department has circulated two volumes, one by the Central Electricity Authority about the requirement of power in the Ninth Five Year Plan, and the other is circulated by the Power Section of the Planning Commission of India, as to what will be required in the Ninth Five Year Plan, and these two are contradictory. I have seen both the volumes. That is why I am telling you that they are contradictory.

I would like to tell you one thing more. In India, coal leakage is a very big problem, but the freight rate for coal is more than the price of coal itself for so many State electricity boards in this country. The only way out or the best way out is to have as much hydel power as possible. In respect of hydel power, there will be no escalation in price. The Chairman of the Power Grid Corporation of India has told me in a meeting that they are prepared to transmit power @ 5 paise per unit. Now, Sir, if they are prepared to transmit power @ 5 paise per unit, then we should draw as much hydel power as possible. In Himachal Pradesh, there is a lot of hydel power potential. In many other countries, say in Nepal, there

is a very large possibility of hydel power. Wherever the hydel power is available, that hydel power should be drawn.

Secondly, I would like to submit a point only about the Delhi power crisis. The rate of power thefts is 40 per cent. Mr. Power Minister, who is committing power thefts? Don't blame only the *jhuggi-jhompri* people. I can assure you that even the five star hotels, the industrialists, the big people are involved. They are all involved in the power thefts. Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is a corrupt organisation, and I can tell you from my experience that one of the biggest industrial houses in this country was caught for slow metering, and the penalty imposed was Rs.4 crores of rupees. Four crores of rupees! And they had to pay that in 24 hours. Sir, nobody is an exception. If you pick pocket for five rupees, it is an offence, but people think that committing power theft is no offence. That is the main reason why DESU is in this poor condition today. And secondly, whatever is due to NTPC and others, they think, they are normally not supposed to pay. Even last year, thousands of crores of rupees, which DESU was supposed to pay to NTPC, were all wiped out and that amount was paid by the Central Government. I asked the Minister at that time, "Why are you wiping out this debt which is supposed to be paid by DESU to NTPC?" Then the reply given was .....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Bhatt, you have taken more than two minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: One minute, Sir. A lot of people have taken a lot of time, but I will finish in two minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): You please just put pointed questions to the Minister so that he can reply to you.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: I will finish in two minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): No, no; there is no time.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, people have taken half-an-hour. I am taking two minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): No; your party has no time. Your leader have taken 25 minutes. So, you conclude now. Make pointed suggestions to the hon. Minister so that he can reply to you.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: While the reply give by the power Minister was दिल्ली तो राजधानी है, राजधानी।

In *Rajdhani*, everything can be done. My friend, Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee, has said, a lot of assurances are given, but nothing has happened. Even in south Avenue, it has been our experience that whenever the power will go, we have to telephone ten times, and only after one hour somebody will come; otherwise we have to sit outside the house because we cannot sit in the street, we cannot sit inside the house. The wrong is with the corrupt administration of DESU. The soft attitude of the Central Government is leading to the non-payment of monies due to DESU. They pre-suppose that ultimately the Central Government will pay. So, what is required is a strict checking of electric meters at everybody's oplace, including the indstrialists, hotels, commercial undertakings, and all types of consumers, because they are not above all these things. They are also a party to this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Shrimati Kamla Sinha. Your party has got four minutes.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): Sir, I will try to finish wihtin the time limit. A detailed debate has already taken place. I don't want to take much of the time of the house. I would just like to say a few pointed things. As regards the

power sector, I feel, there has been a lot of mishandling in many of the projects. Yesterday I had asked a question, Question No. 205, which was about a power project in Himachal Pradesh. Unfortunately, it was not taken up. The World Bank had given Rs. 7,500 crores for this project. It did not take off even after 13 years. There are many projects like this which have not taken off, which are still in the pipeline. For example, in my own State of Bihar there is a project, Koel Karo. Many years have gone by. But it is still in the pipeline. Nothing is coming up. Because of all these things there is a power shortage in the whole country. Delhi is just a manifestation of what is happening in the country. Many of our colleagues have already spoken about what is happening in Delhi. I am not going to repeat them. I would just like to say one thing. In the Ninth Five Year Plan the Planning Commission has projected the need at 45,000 megawatts. But we are short of this. When Mr. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister, he had privatised the coal-mines and it was expected that captive power plants would be there in many areas so that power shortage would be eliminated. It also did not happen. The result is that we see power shortage everywhere in the country. It is true that India has got a lot of water resources and that it can generate hydel power. There is only input cost. The maintenance cost is very low. The Power Minister is a very energetic person. He should allocate more money for hydel power projects because the running cost of hydel projects is very low and they are environment-friendly also. Literally speaking there is a vicious circle involving, the National Thermal Power Corporation and the State Electricity Boards. The State Electricity Boards supply electricity at a subsidised rate for domestic use and for agricultural use. They are not able to pay the coal prices to Coal India. The NTPC has, sometimes, to write off all these things. There is always a large demand for electricity. Since there is a shortage of electricity we cannot get electricity. Even in Delhi there is a lot of electricity shortage and water shortage. So, there is a kind of vicious circle. Now we should try to rationalise the use of water as also the use of electricity. I don't know how you are going to do that. Recycling of water for domestic use has also to be done. I agree with my colleague who said that a time would come when there would be no water. There will be a scarcity of water and mankind cannot live without water. So, we must plan properly and we must conserve our underground water. Our underground water level is also going down. There are a lot of reasons for that Ground water is not being preserved properly. All these areas need to be taken care of. There is a need for comprehensive approach for conserving running water and underground water. Then recycling of water needs to be done properly and there should be proper use of electricity also. Thank you.

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली (दिल्ली): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं केवल बिन्दु पढ़ देता हूं जिससे कि दो मिनट में अपनी बात पूरी कर सकूं। दिल्ली की बिजली की मांग और आपूर्ति के अंतर को देखते हुए जेनेरेशन की लंबित पड़ी हुई योजनाओं को जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा किए जाने के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाने चाहिए, नंबर एक। नंबर दो ट्रांसमीशन और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम बहुत पुराना हो गया है, सड़-गल गया है और अपर्याप्त है। इसे ऑगमेंट किया जाना चाहिए और इसे मॉडनाईज़ किया जाना चाहिए। नंबर तीन, दिल्ली विद्युत बोर्ड का प्रशासन बहुत कमज़ोर, भ्रष्टाचारग्रस्त और लालफीताशाही के शिकंजे में फंसा है, इसमें आमूल परिवर्तन करने की जरूरत है। नंबर चार, लोकल फॉल्ट रिमूवल सिस्टम बहुत कमज़ोर और इनएफिशिएंट है, इसे मज़बूत किए जाए। नंबर पांच , एनफोर्समेंट विंग को मजबूत किया जाए और चोरियों को रोका जाए। और आंतरिक संसाधन तथा राजस्व में बढ़ोत्तरी की जाए। नंबर छः, कॉमर्शियल पॉलिसी को लिब्रलाइज़ किया जाए जिससे लोगों को बिजली का अधिकृत कनेक्शन आसानी से मिल सके। नंबर सात, दिल्ली विद्युत बोर्ड की कुछ एक्टिविटीज़ को प्राइवेटाइज़ किया जाए और अंतिम बिन्दु यह है कि इंटरनल रिसोर्सेस की उपलब्धता बढ़ाई जाए जिससे कि ट्रांसमीशन और डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम को मॉडनाईज़ किया जा सके और मेंटेनेंस सिस्टम को मजबूत किया जा सके। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA (Haryana): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to put up the case of Haryana which is a very tiny State. Geographically, it is situated at three sides of Delhi. Sir, the present Government thinks that Haryana is an outhouse of Delhi. Whenever they need water and power, there is overdrawal of water and power from Haryana. I would like to refer to a statement made by the Minister of Power in reply to Question No. 201 on 10th June, 1998. The answer is:

> "(b) The details of MW of power supplied to Delhi from the Northern Grid during the month of May, 1998 are enclosed as Annexure-1. Delhi received power supply up to 1605 MW from the Northern Grid during the month of May, 1998 against its maximum entitlement of 1420 MW.
>
> (c) Delhi has generally been drawing more power than the entitlement from the Northern Grid to meet its peak demand."

From where is this power coming? It is coming from Haryana. Delhi is drawing water from the Bhakhra Dam. Similarly, the Yamuna water is meant to serve Haryana. Delhi is drawing the Yamuna water more than the entitlement. Even Delhi is drawing the Bhakhra water in which they have no share. Delhi is drawing maximum water in the name of Capital. Therefore, Haryana is the worst sufferer Sir, the people of Haryana are a part of this country. There is a total darkness in Haryana. There is no drinking water available in towns. Farmers are unable to sow paddy and cotton crops.

The reason is that there are three plants on which hundreds of crores have been spent but they are pending for the last 20 years. One is the Yamunanagar Super Thermal Plant for which the land was acquired in 1990. A lot of money was spent. Everything was cleared, sanctions were got from everywhere. But it has not taken off. Five or six years ago, the then Prime Minister laid the foundation for the Gas Thermal Plant at Faridabad. But nothing has been done on that despite repeated requests. Similarly, an atomic energy plant was proposed in the Jind District at Narwana. For the last 10 years, nothing has been decided about it. Therefore, I request, be kind to Haryana, be fair to Haryana. We don't even need any kindness. But be fair. The Congress-led Government was giving more power at the time of crisis in Haryana. On the other hand, this Government is treating Haryana very shabbily. The Government of Haryana is so cruel that they have plunged the entire Haryana into darkness. There is no power for domestic use. There is no power for agriculture. There is no drinking water in the towns.

श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पानी और बिजली, यह दोनों विषय बड़े महत्व के विषय हैं और शॉर्ट ड्यूरेशन के माध्यम से इस सदन में इसकी चर्चा हो रही है। मैं संक्षेप में अपनी बात रखना चाहता हूं। पीने के पानी की समस्या इस देश के सभी प्रदेशों में करीब-करीब है मगर मध्य प्रदेश एक ऐसा प्रदेश है जो क्षेत्रफल की दृष्टि से पूरे देश में सबसे बड़ा है और विशेषकर मध्य प्रदेश का जो मालवा क्षेत्र है, वहां पीने के पानी की बहुत कमी आज उत्पन्न हो गयी है। जो पानी का जल स्तर है, वह करीब चार सौ, पांच सौ, छः सौ फुट नीचे चला गया है। जहां पहले कुंओं की खुदाई होती थी तो 25-30-40 फुट नीचे पानी भरपूर मात्रा में रहता था मगर आज गरमी के सीजन में पूरे मालवा क्षेत्र में एक भी कुंए में पानी नहीं है और जितने भी ट्यूबवैल पीने के पानी के लिए खोले गये हैं, उसमें से पचास परसेंट ट्यूबवेल सूखे पड़े हैं। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि पीने के पानी की ओर विशेष ध्यान दिया जाए और विशेषकर मध्यम प्रदेश के मालवा क्षेत्र में। महोदय, जल स्तर को कैसे बढ़ाया जाए, उसके लिए पुरानी पद्धति जो थी, उसमें गांव में तालाब रहते थे। वह जो तालाब बनवाए थे वह इसलिए बनवाए थे कि बरसात का पानी उसमें स्टोर हो और उससे कुओं और ट्यूबवेलों का जल स्तर बना रहे। इसलिए तालाबों का निर्माण किया गया था। मगर आज दिखने में आता है कि तालाब बहुत कम मात्रा में रह गये हैं। लोगों ने उनके ऊपर अतिक्रमण कर लिया है, कहीं खेती कर रहे हैं। मगर रैवेन्यू रिकार्ड में तालाब शासकीय भूमि हैं।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि यदि हमें जल स्तर को बढ़ाना है तो तालाब का वापिस जीर्णोद्धार करना पड़ेगा, उनको वापिस बनवाना पड़ेगा ताकि बरसात का पानी उसमें स्टोर हो सके। सर, मेरी विशेष मांग यह भी है कि नर्मदा नदी में पानी की पर्याप्त मात्रा है तथा नर्मदा नदी का पानी मालवा क्षेत्र में लाकर वहां की जो चम्बल नदी है.....(व्यवधान)..... उसमें अगर उसको छोड़ा जाए तो जल स्तर व सिंचाई की सुविधा उससे हो सकती है। मान्यवर, दूसरा विषय बिजली का है मैं केवल आधे मिनट में खत्म करता हूं। आज बिजली की स्थिति ऐसी है कि उसकी कोई समय सीमा नहीं रहती। जब चाहे बंद हो जाती है, जब चाहे चालू हो जाती है। दिल्ली में तो हम यह रोज देखते हैं मगर विशेषकर जो हमारे देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र हैं, उनकी हालत बहुत बदतर है। और जब पावर कट करते हैं तो समय ऐसा निर्धारित करते हैं जब शाम का समय हो। 6 बजे से लेकर 10 बजे तक। जब गांव का किसान अपने खेत से काम करके घर आता है तो वह अंधेरे में खाना बनाता है और अंधेरे में ही खाना खाता है। मेहरबानी करके शाम के समय में तो बिजली कटौती नहीं होनी चाहिए, उसको चालू रखना चाहिए।

जहां तक खेती का सवाल है उसके लिए बिजली पर्याप्त मात्रा में दी जाए ताकि किसान अपना अधिक से अधिक उत्पादन उससे कर सके। मान्यवर, बिजली का संबंध इसी तरह से मवेशियों से भी होता है क्योंकि नदियों में और तालाबों में पानी नहीं होता है तो मशीन पम्प द्वारा स्टोर किए गए पानी को मवेशी पीते हैं मगर बिजली की शार्टेज होने की वजह से, बिजली के समय पर न आने की वजह से मवेशियों को पीने का पानी उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाता है। इसकी हैंडपम्प से पूर्ति नहीं हो पाती है। हैंडपम्प से कब तक पानी इकट्ठा करके उनको पिलाएंगे? ट्यूबवैल से वे पानी इकट्ठा करने की जगह को भरते हैं और उसमें से मवेशी पानी पीते हैं। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि ये दोनों विषय बड़े महत्वपूर्ण हैं इसलिए प्राथमिकता के आधार पर सरकार को इसे अपने हाथ में लेकर पीने के पानी और बिजली इन दोनों में सुधार करना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जॉन एफ फर्नांडिस): प्लीज मैडम, काइन्डली टेक टू मिनिट्स, मिस फिडा टोपनो।

कुमारी फिडा टोपनो (उड़ीसा): सर, बिजली और पानी दोनों बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और इनकी जरूरत भी बहुत महसूस होती है। ज्यादातर दिल्ली और बड़े-बड़े शहरों की प्रोब्लम्स के विषय में डिस्कशन हुआ है। मैं अपने रुरल एरिया से संबंधित जो प्रोब्लम्स हैं उनके विषय में कुछ कहना चाहती हूं। बिजली की चोरी होती है उनको रोका जाना चाहिए। अनेक बार ट्रान्सफोर्मर जल जाते हैं। रिपोर्ट करने पर 3-4 व 6 महीने लग जाते हैं ठीक होने में जिसके कारण रुरल एरिया में लोग प्रोब्लम में पड़ जाते हैं। शाम को बिजली की कटौती हो जाती है। अभी मेरे भाई बोल रहे थे कि वे कैरोसीन लेना चाहते हैं तो उनको कैरोसीन भी नहीं मिलता है। जिसके कारण पढ़ने वाले बच्चे पढ़ नहीं सकते हैं। बहन लोग खाना नहीं पका सकते हैं। इसलिए विशेषकर रुरल एरिया के लोगों को सारे समय बिजली उपलब्ध होनी चाहिए। जब पीने के पानी की सुविधा नहीं है, नदी नहीं है और पावर भी नहीं है तो इस प्रकार की प्रोब्लम्स होने के कारण रुरल एरिया की बिजली पर विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए। पीने के पानी, सेफ ड्रिंकिंग वाटर के लिए गांव-गांव में ट्यूबवैल्स लगाये गये हैं लेकिन अनेक समय खराब हो जाते हैं, उनकी समय पर मरम्मत नहीं हो पाती है। रनिंग वाटर और तालाब धूप के दिनों में सूख जाते हैं तो तालाब के भीतर ट्यूबवैल्स लगाने से भी लोगों को सुविधा हो सकती है। विशेष कर जितने सांसद हैं और हम लोगों का जो एम० पीज० फंडस मंजूर हुआ है वह एक करोड़ था अब दो करोड़ हो गया है सभी सांसद अपने-अपने एरिया में ट्यूबवैल, पोन्ड और बिजली के लिए गांव-गांव में थोड़ी हैल्प कर देने से उनको बहुत सहूलियत मिल सकती है।

इतना कहकर मैं समाप्त करती हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Mr. Kumaramangalam, are you going to reply for both power and water?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): I will answer for power and the Urban Development Minister will answer for water. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to the hon. Members for their participation in what I consider to be a very important issue. In fact, water and power are co-existent, are inter-related. As rightly pointed out by many Members water has come to become the basic amenity which man requires today in modern life. We have a situation in India, that in the Eighth Five Year Plan we had planned for 30,500 megawatts of additional capacity but we could only add 16,500 megawatts as additional capacity

during the Eighth Five Year Plan which is 46 per cent less than the target and it is 23 per cent less than what was added in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The cause was really a transition situation. When we move from a situation where power generation was totally in the State sector to permitting private generation in the power sector, we came to a situation where private generation took time to pick up but the investments in the State sector were slowed down. So, we had a situation where wait and expectation of the private generation to catch on did not really work as per the hopes and aspirations. As has been rightly pointed out by many speakers, the situation is quite serious.

I must compliment the former Power Minister, Mr. Alagh, were it not for his efforts to concentrate in detail on increasing the the PLF we would have had a much worse position.

The target for actual generation was 400 billion units of power. We achieved last year 394 billion units which is without adding the additional capacity to the extent expected. When we were short by 46 per cent, by sheer improvement in plant load factor, we managed to achieve a situation where targets were met. The requirement, of course, was much more than the target. The requirement was in the region of 447 billion units. Therefore, we are short by about 11 per cent in picking power. When we work it out in megawatts it really works to about 7,393 megawatts. It is quite a lot of power when one looks at it from the point of investment. A policy decision was taken at a particular period of time to go in for short gestation projects. Suddenly an idea dawned that nephtha is a good alternative. It is a clean fuel until gas is made available. We will use naphtha. Unfortunately, naphtha is volatile both in price and in volume and in actual handling. But it is a fuel that is being chosen. Today, to roll the clock back would be difficult but many of these projects which have been given a few linkages still move quickly. The major reason for the short gestation not being short as it should be is because of the financial condition of the State Electricity Boards. The amount of escrow that they are able to provide and the securitisation that they were able to give is not enough to really meet the expectations. It is our estimation that about 10,000 megawatts is the maximum capacity for which they can give a escrow which covers both public and private sectors. That being so, the question really is how fast they would pick up 30,000 megawatts of short gestation and other projects which have been sanctioned by the State Governments. We have targeted 40,000 megawatts in the Ninth Five Year Plan draft. It is not yet finalised. The shortage was predicted at about 47,000 megawatts.

It is my belief that we need to take a three-pronged strategy, and it is not any 'young man in a hurry' sort of situation. I am a little surprised that Dipankarda called me a young man because I thought he was my age. I called for the Who's Who and looked at it and found that he does have a decade over me. That is why, I suppose that a decade justifies the 'young' and the 'old'.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is the state of mind.

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Then should I call him an old man because it is a state of mind? I think that is a little unfair on him. I think his mind is also young.

If I may submit, I believe we need to be in a hurry. Caution, I understand. Dipankarda mentioned caution because he is a trade unionist. I noticed, his education is also that of electrical engineering. The cause for caution from your side is justified because if I was in your place and I was a trade unionist, I would also call for caution, because I know as much as you know. I have been the President of DESU Employees Union for quite a long time.

The truth of the matter is that in the late '80s the matter was quite under control. It could have been managed. Today we have slipped from 25-26% T&D to 46% T&D. It is not 49%. It is quite a slip. It shows that not only has our inefficiency in the quality of our distribution and transmission system gone down, it also shows that our vigil has gone down and theft has increased. It no longer can be called theft. It can be called in much stronger terms. We are in a serious situation in Delhi. I don't think we have time to sit back and search for solutions in terms of discussions. It has been going on endlessly. If we don't act, we are not going to be in a situation where we even have an opportunity to act. I only wish in the late '80s strong, strict action had been taken in DVB or DESU. I think we would have had a much better day today, if that was so.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: How does that justify your assurance?

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The assurance that I gave was very clear and the assurance was that Delhi will get all the power that it requires from the Northern Grid. And I hope the word was 'may' and I hope that the non-availability of power will not be a reason for power-shedding. In fact, the Chief Minister sat with me during the Press Conference. We had a discussion. We drew up a charter of many points, which was agreed between parties. What was agreed on behalf of the Ministry of Power, I am happy to say that the Department of Power will carry that out. There were some Slippages and outages due to the Northern Grid. But I must congratulate NREB officials that after many years discipline has been brought in the Grid and we have been able to maintain 49.5 cycles frequency from almost the middle of May, which was the worst time.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Are you trying to imply that the Delhi Government's part of the deal was not kept?

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I did not imply that. I can speak for my behalf. Nor will I reply on behalf of others.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: You are referring to a discussion. One part of the deal was kept by you. What about the other part?

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Can I come to the other part? I will come to the other part in a little more detail, with the information that I have been given, because our job is much less. Our job was to provide the additional power they required to hold the frequencies —take over three substations, handle them from the power grid, put in a certain amount of shunt capacitors We have carried those out. The job that was given to DVB was to bring in discipline whithin its own system and to ensure that the generation that was there, they could keep it up. The situation is, as I have mentioned yesterday, that, to be accurate, 635 MW—it is not 665 MW because one small generator tripped—is the rated capacity and they are only producing 260 MW.

The shortage of power generation is one major issue why we have the problem. We also had some problems on reactive power, the shunt capacitors, etc. In addition to that, what was normally expected was a load increase of about 9 per cent this year. We have had a sudden increase of over 13 per cent in demand due to excessive heat. The lopsided planning of the past has created the situation. When such sudden increases take place, the peak demand rises viciously causing failure in the system. I think Dipankarda would understand as to how that happens because he is an electrical engineer; I am only in the electronic arena. We deal with 5 volts and 12 volts. He deals with 22000 volts and 44000 volts. If I come to the point, I must say that the DVB did a good job in the constraints that they have, a history of so much of theft and T&D losses. They have registered cases which would surprise the Members, and

in fact, pleasantly Surprise the Members. They have undertaken a lot of activities which were not undertaken in the past. About one hundred policemen are available—I mean 100 security personnel—30 policemen, 76 CRPF, etc. Actually, the total number of cases they have checked this year is 17,210. Thefts detected are 8,426; FIRs lodged are 3,558 and in the last 15 days, they have recovered Rs. 453 crores only by that. They recovered this amount only on account of theft. Actually, when a chap steals, it is difficult to get money from him. It is not easy, but they have done very good recovery. I must compliment them for this.

I wish the same thing was done for the last five-six years. We would have had a far better situtation now. Strict action with support from local administration and Central Government would have solved the problem earlier. I know you supported many Governments in the past. The previous Government had your support. I am not saying that it is Alagh Saheb's fault at all. In fact, Alagh Saheb did his job. I must say I was lucky that I have become a Minister after him. The way he has worked on the PLF has helped me to contribute. In the last two months, we have been able to increase the amount of power availability. In fact, 3,719 million units of power has been made available additionally *vis-a-vis* May, 97 and May, 98. It was possible because of the trend of keeping the PLF up and we brought in the policy of transferring power, evacuating power from your surplus Eastern region. Everybody has been commenting about the PLF being low in the Eastern region. It is low because backing up is done. It is not low because the plants are run inefficiently. There is surplus power in the Eastern region, but the evacuation of power from the Eastern region to other regions is limited due to not broad enough, if I may use the word, bandwidth of coverage of inter-regional links where you could push a lot of power. So, what you do is, when your frequency goes up, you back up your generation. When you back up your generation, your PLF drops. It is not the fault of the Eastern region. Everybody says that Southern region is 70% and above, Eastern region is 49%. The truth is, if we can evacuate power from the Eastern region today, I could say, I would do even better. We have done only 800 megawatts in the last two months. I think, if we proceed on the line of having a national grid where we can evacuate power efficiently and smoothly, many of our problems can be addressed. We have 100 megawatts of power going from the Easter region all the way to Tamil Nadu; We have 100 megawatts of power going to Karnataka; We have 100 megawatts of power going to Kerala.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Karnataka has not agreed.

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No, no. It is not that he has not agreed. He says, "I am paying for that. I did not pay for Rs. 230 crores in the past. I am paying for the present." He is getting the power, all right. The point is, the time when the grid frequency slips, he doesn't get it. Otherwise, he gets the power normally. He has admitted it in the next day's statement, if you are talking of the power Minister of Karnataka. I would like to point out that the problem that we are facing can be addressed only if we discipline the SEBs in terms of both technology, management and integrity. And here is where Trade Unions need to play a proper role. Dipankarda can call me any name, "young", "in a hurry", "old", "stale". I am willing to accept every curse if CITU can stand by and tell those who are indulging in collusion over there that they are not going to support them. I am sure, he will do that. The day you do that, I am certain that I can address the problem quickly and we can solve this problem. In addition to that we need to address very clearly to increase our PLF. The first immediate step that we need to do is to increase the PLF, improve our transmission systems by putting up shunt capacitors so that reactive loads can be handled and improve our system of transmission and

distribution. In addition to that we have to see that whatever little additional capacity comes — one of the short gestation projects can come up is added to give additional capacity. In the long run, it is my belief that power is one arena where you need to go into larger capacities to reduce cost. The cost of freight has increased and I believe personnally, my Government believes that it should encourage pithead units for coal plants. Somebody did mention about fly-ash and disposal of fly-ash. When I was Minister of State for Science and Technology earlier, I had moved a mission which has given a very good report on technology but the implementation of fly-ash technology is not easy. But once you have it in the pithead, disposal of fly-ash safely is possible. In addition to this we need to have mega projects to ensure that these mega projects come up and give us sufficient power and make it commercially viable and work it out. I am not in a rush there. I am in a rush only to bring in certain discipline. Sir, actually the situation is that we have SEBs owing almost Rs. 19,500 crores on their account. We have brought in Regulatory Commission to bring in some discipline. When the Bill is moved by me I shall say what is there in the Bill, etc. Many doubts have been raised, about generation, issues of T&D losses, inefficiency, etc. These would be addressed by the regulator and it is provided in the Act. It is not an act which has been brought in a hurry. It is not an act born of our Government, it is an act which has been born out of a lot of discussion between all parties, all the State Governments and many power Ministers. Across the party lines, there has been an agreement on the need to have regulators, on the need to give guidelines, on the need to ensure discipline, transparency and clarity in the power sector. The consumer needs a fair share now. Enough is enough. It has been a great veil behind which a lot of people made a lot of money. Now it is time that the common man gets power at a reasonable and fair price. I think, it is towards that we should work. I am sorry that I have not been able to answer all the suggestions. I hope when I get my chance to reply on the Electricity Bill, I would be able to address a few of the issues that have been raised. Thank you very much.

SHRI MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir my colleague is right when he said that water and electricity are inextricably mixed up and they were mixed up during the course of the debate that has gone on here. Ultimately, Sir, it is water which sometimes produces power and it is power which runs my pumps which produce water and runs plants which purify water. Sir, power does not exist if something goes wrong with water. While it is legitimate to club water and power together, at some stage they have to part. But, the parting is the result of unfortunate —— I may not call it unfortunate —— but Constitutional position. Power is my friend's subject. He directly deals with it. That is why he could make up a wonderful presentation today and could resolve the doubts which the House has about the manner in which the power scarcity is being dealt with.

But, Sir, my problem is that water is not my subject. ...*(Interruptions)*... Water is purely a State subject. And Mr. Chavan who initiated the debate was conscious of the this and he told us, 'Please do not take a technical position, because this is a State subject, you will not deal with it.' Now, Sir, I have never been technical. Even my training as a lawyer has told me that ultimately it is better to grapple with substance than to deal with the...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): You are the Minister of Urban Development and urabn development needs water. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: My friend is right and that is why, at least, I have taken this intiative and I am

prepared to enter into this debate and share my thoughts with the House. Sir, basically my problem is one of substance and not technically because I am not in a position to tell you since I have no control, I do not administer, I cannot tell you why a particular shortage is arising in State 'A' or State 'B' as to what are the causes of the shortage in that region, whether adequate steps are being taken to meet that shortage, whether there is corruption, whether there is any negligence, I cannot answer all these problems and I am not able to throw intelligent light upon this problem. Sir, while I was listening to the debate I kept wondering that the gentlemen, my colleagues in the House, who have participated in this debate are men of great experience, of greater experience than I am and I did not expect merely a lurid description of the problem. What I expected was that the hon. Members will have done home work and given me the benefit of their wisdom and told me as to how to solve this problem. Sir, after all, this problem has not arisen during the lastg six or seven weeks —— maybe, for a longer period —— since we have been in power on this side. This problem has existed for so long and a debate has been going on national scale for the last so many years.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKERJEE (West Bengal): If you give me three mintues, I can give you the solution to this problem. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, if I had dealt with this problem, probably I would have given an answer which I got in the Lok Sabha the other day. We were discussing the problem of housing, shortage of housing. Sir, it was a pleasing experience for me that seven or eight Members got up and said that ultimately we are only grappling with the symptoms and we are not dealing with the core problem. The core problem is the galloping rise of population about which nobody is prepared to do anything. Sir, my friend is an econmist. Malthus who was an economist had talked of the growing disparities between population and food supplies. Even that economist never applied his mind to water. He talked of food and other things, but, he never talked of water. Even that great economist never imagined that ultimately the politicians' nightmare would ultimatley get into the field of water. Sir, what we are facing today is the politicians' nightmare in the field of water. This can only be dealt with by the States. If my friends have been suggesting here that I must do this —— Kamlabahen said "You must plan to see to it that somehow water wastage does not take place, I want to ask —— in fact, if she had been here, I would have asked her —— as to how you would expect to do it. I have no power; I have no Constitutional power to deal with this problem. I cannot legislate unless all the States combine together, meet together, or at least two or three or more States combine together and ask me to legislate under article 252 of the Constitution just as we have done in the case of Land Ceiling Act. If that Kind of a thing were possible, I think a Central uniform policy is possible. Sir, the greatest problem is that in 1987 this nation grappled with this problem and you formulated, what you call, the lower Basins Policy.

Now, if you have all the water resources of this entire nation harnessed for the common good of the entire nation, and each State considers itself a part of an economic unity called India, and not a separate State by itself, only then this problem can be solved. But, has any hon. Member concerned himself with the problem why this whole policy which was formulated in 1987 with such fanfare, has not been put into effect? It has not been put into effect, apart from the lack of political will, because we are busy with other problems. All the time we are busy with some lesser problems. This kind of a major problem we do not grapple with but the basic problem has been that this country, unfortunately, does not have the necessary fiscal resources. After 1987 we

could not do anything about water. In 1991, you had embarked upon a new economic venture. You had gone into a new economic direction. Are you prepared to apply the new economic policies now to the utilisation and exploitation of our total water resources? That is the only solution to the problem. And, Sir, if all parties meet together, I am prepared to call a conference of all parties. I am prepared to call a conference of all State Ministers to be able to evolve some kind of a solution to this complex water problem. But, Sir, merely reiterating this problem again and again in more and more rhetorical and lurid terms does not solve the problem. It only accentuates the anguish, the pathos and tragedy but it does bring us nearer to the solution. The solution is, we must put our heads together, devise methods of raising finance to be able to deal with this complex and tremendous, complex and vast, problem. That can only be done with co-operation from all sections of the House. Sir, I need a little encouragement from all sections of the House to embark upon some new ventures in this field and more than anything else, you must empower me to be able to advise the States.

Sir, one last word. I am; somewhat, Constitutionally concerned at least, with Delhi. In Delhi, the position is slightly different because though the State Government in Delhi has the power to deal with water, yet, the Centre has not given up its Constitutional power to legislate on water. Therefore, techinically, I have some jurisdiction in the matter so far as Delhi is concerned ...*(Interruptions)*... But again technically ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I wanted to say only one thing: in the City of Delhi, though you experience shortage these shortages which you are experiencing are really the result of mal-distribution. There is enough water. The maximum needs of water here are 800 million gallons per day — 800 MDC or 800 MDG whatever you call it — but 600 MDC are being produced. Sir, 600 million gallons of water is available. The Government of Delhi has been dealing with this water shortage on a war-footing. Literally, they have delecared a war against water scarcity and I am glad to report to you that we are on the way to solving the problem of shortage of 200 MDC of water; we have commissioned tankers. Sir, we have commissioned 400 to 500 tankers to supply water in the remote areas of Delhi; pumps have been built; reservoirs are being set up and new plants have already been commissioned and they will be completed in the course of one or two years. I have no doubt that at least in the city of Delhi we will be able to solve the water—shortage problem for all time to come. I hope, all the States where there is shortage will be able to solve the problem—I cannot even vouch that there is shortage because I have no control even over statistics. For example, one hon. Member today spoke about Rajasthan shortages. When we asked for information from the State Government, Rajasthan has reported that there is 100% no scarcity of water. Every person is supplied with water. This is the situation. I cannot even get proper statistics from the States. So, please empower me so that I should be able to deal with the problem. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): What do you want to ask? Do you want to seek any clarification?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH (Gujarat): Sir, may I seek a very small clarification? In the National Development Council, meeting on the Ninth Five Year Plan, we have accepted that provision of drinking water is a basic minimum service. Now, the hon. Minister, Mr. Jethmalani, has given a very good speech and has talked about a number of relevant problems. But, is it being suggested that this is being given up; that you are going to have some liberalisation policy? I am totally confused at the end of all this. He said that there are no statistics, there is no

this, and there is not that, and he wanted to be empowered... *(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Mr. Alagh, you make your submissions to the Chair.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Sir, I only want this clarification. Is the Government committed to drinking water as a minimum need as is defined in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan or has the hon. Minister made a new policy announcement that he is going to do something else? At least, this much he should make clear to us.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, no Government consisting of human beings can have any other opinion except that this is a basic necessity. It is a basic necessity. It is a basic service. We are committed to that. But, I am talking of how we satisfy that basic need of yours.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): कोहली जी, आप क्या बोलना चाहते थे?

श्री ओ०पी० कोहली (दिल्ली): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, दिल्ली में पानी की समस्या के जो और कारण हैं उसमें एक कारण मल्टी ऑथोरिटी सिस्टम भी है। माननीय मंत्री जी, दिल्ली में डी०डी०ए० ने कई अंडरग्राउंड वाटर टैंक बनाए हुए हैं। लेकिन वह एम०सी०डी० को हैंड ओवर नहीं हो रहे हैं जिसकी वजह से उन वाटर टैंकों का उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है।

I know one such water-tank in Trilokpuri area which has been constructed by the DDA and the same has not been handed over to the MCD. Since it is not being commissioned, it is not being used. I think, there might be many more such water-tanks which should be handed over to the MCD so that the people get water. I request you to kindly look into this.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Certainly, we look into this.

INFORMATION TO THE HOUSE

Regarding Disciplinary Action Against Dr. U.N. Biswas, Joint Director, C.B.I.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री मदन लाल खुराना): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सरकार द्वारा कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय के अप्रैल 29, 1998 के निर्णय के संदर्भ में की जाने वाली कार्रवाई का विषय कल लोक सभा में कई बार उठा था, यहां भी यह मामला उठा। डा० यू०एन० बिस्वास, संयुक्त निदेशक, सी०बी०आई० ने यह अपील सैंट्रल एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव ट्रिब्यूनल के आदेश के विरुद्ध दायर की थी। सरकार द्वारा कल लोक सभा को बताया गया कि इस मामले में कानूनी राय लेकर सदन को आज सूचित किया जाएगा। मैंने आज लोक सभा में सूचित कर दिया। सभापति महोदय ने मुझे यह आदेश दिया है कि यहां भी मैं सूचित कर दूं, इस सदन में भी सूचित कर दूं कि डा० बिस्वास के विरुद्ध विभागीय कार्रवाई क्वेश करने संबंधित कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय के बारे में कानूनी राय उपलब्ध होना बाकी है। नियमानुसार सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील करने की कार्रवाई अगस्त 12, 1998 तक की जा सकती है। सरकार इस मामले में कानूनी राय उपलब्ध होते ही जल्दी से जल्दी निर्णय लेगी।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we will take up the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill, 1998.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, I wanted to know whether they are going in for an appeal?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): This is only for the information of the House.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: What information?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): What information? Are you going in for an appeal in court?

श्री मदन लाल खुराना: मैंने यह कहा कि कानूनी राय लेकर ही इसके बारे में कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, I want to seek a clarification...*(interruptions)*... What we want is... *(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTAN BISI): There cannot be any discussion on this.